



### **Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case Using Logical and Reasonable Arguments**

Students can get bogged down with details and need help creating a coherent "package" to present their ideas. These Tip Sheets should help students visualize their thinking and learning as they progress through the stages of building a logical and reasonable case using logical and reasonable arguments. The steps for building a case are outlined in basic steps and questions. The Tip Sheets then map students' thinking patterns to help them "see" their thinking and work through the steps of building and supporting their case using logical and reasonable arguments. Putting thoughts together using logic and reason can be particularly challenging when faced with "messy" issues. The graphic organizer helps students record and organize thoughts as they construct a framework for their case. Using the checklists, students can test their arguments for sound logic and reasoning based on their experiences with the content and the construction of their case. These resources help students evaluate arguments, question claims, identify logical structures, and analyze the validity of arguments. Students will build a logical and reasonable case, construct logical and reasonable arguments, and then analyze those arguments and evidence for validity.

**This thinking skill includes these resources:**

***Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case, Text Outline***  
***Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case, Student Tip Sheet***  
***Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case, Graphic Organizer***

***Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Argument, Checklist***  
***Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Argument, Graphic Organizer***

***Analyzing Logic and Reason, Checklist***

# Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case

## Tip Sheet

### Stage 1: Finding the Barriers

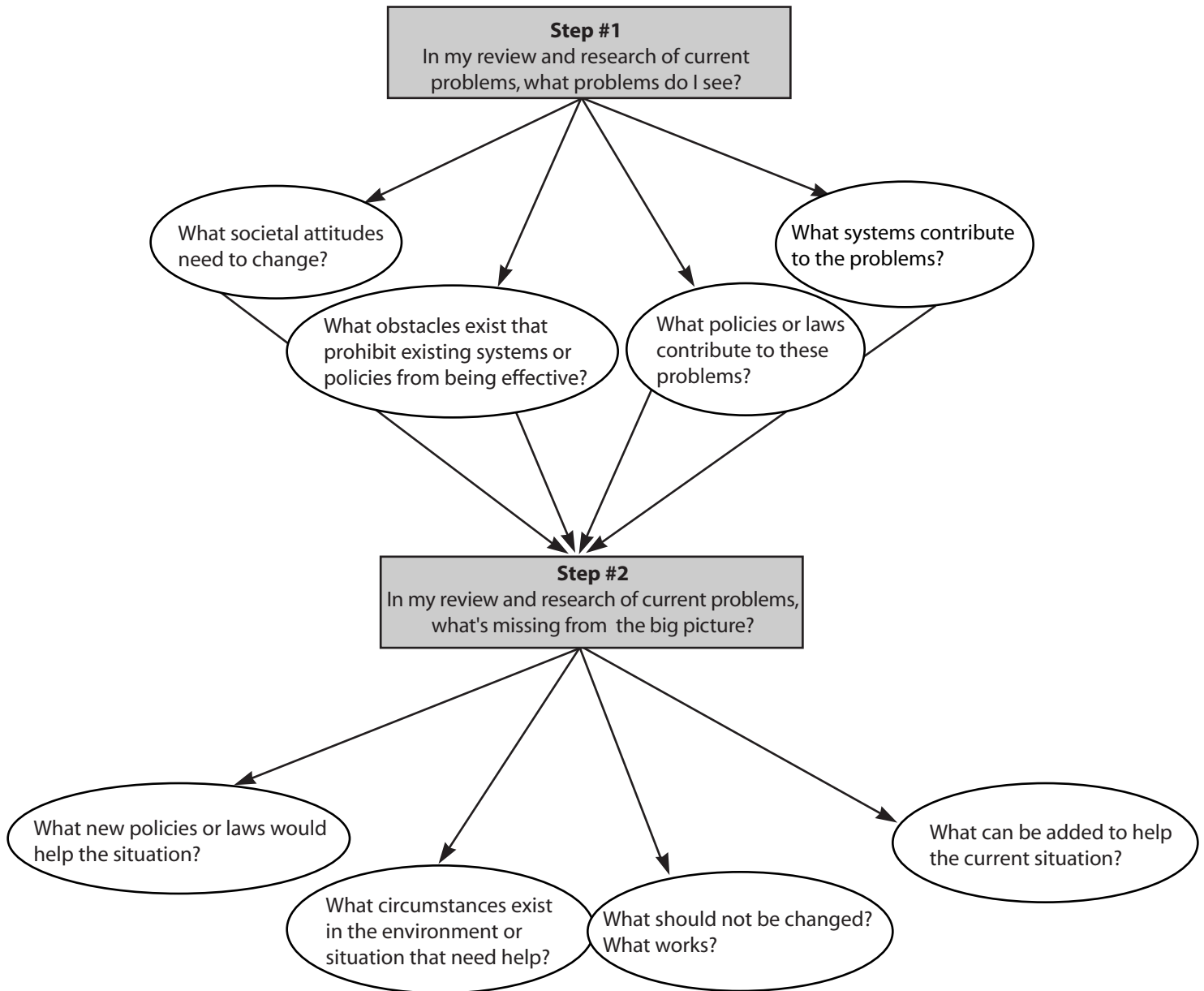
1. In my review and research of current conditions, what general problems do I see?
  - What policies or laws contribute to these problems?
  - What systems contribute to the problems?
  - What obstacles exist that prohibit existing systems or policies from being effective?
  - What societal attitudes need to change?
2. In my review and research of current conditions, what's missing from the big picture?
  - What new policies or laws would help the situation?
  - What circumstances exist in the environment or situation that need help?
  - What can be added to help the current situation?
  - What should not be changed?

### Stage 2: Explaining the Solution

3. What is my solution?
  - Is it a new law or a new system?
  - Does it fix an existing law or system?
  - What does my solution do?
4. How does my solution work?
  - What is my goal with this solution?
  - What are the steps to my solution?
  - What resources do I need?
    - How much will it cost? What is the funding source?
    - Where will it be?
    - How long will it take?
  - Who is involved? What will they do?
    - Who will create the system?
    - Who will keep it going?
    - Who will enforce the new policies or laws?
5. What does my solution look like?
  - How are problems solved?
  - How are needs met?
  - What are the advantages or added benefits?

# Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case

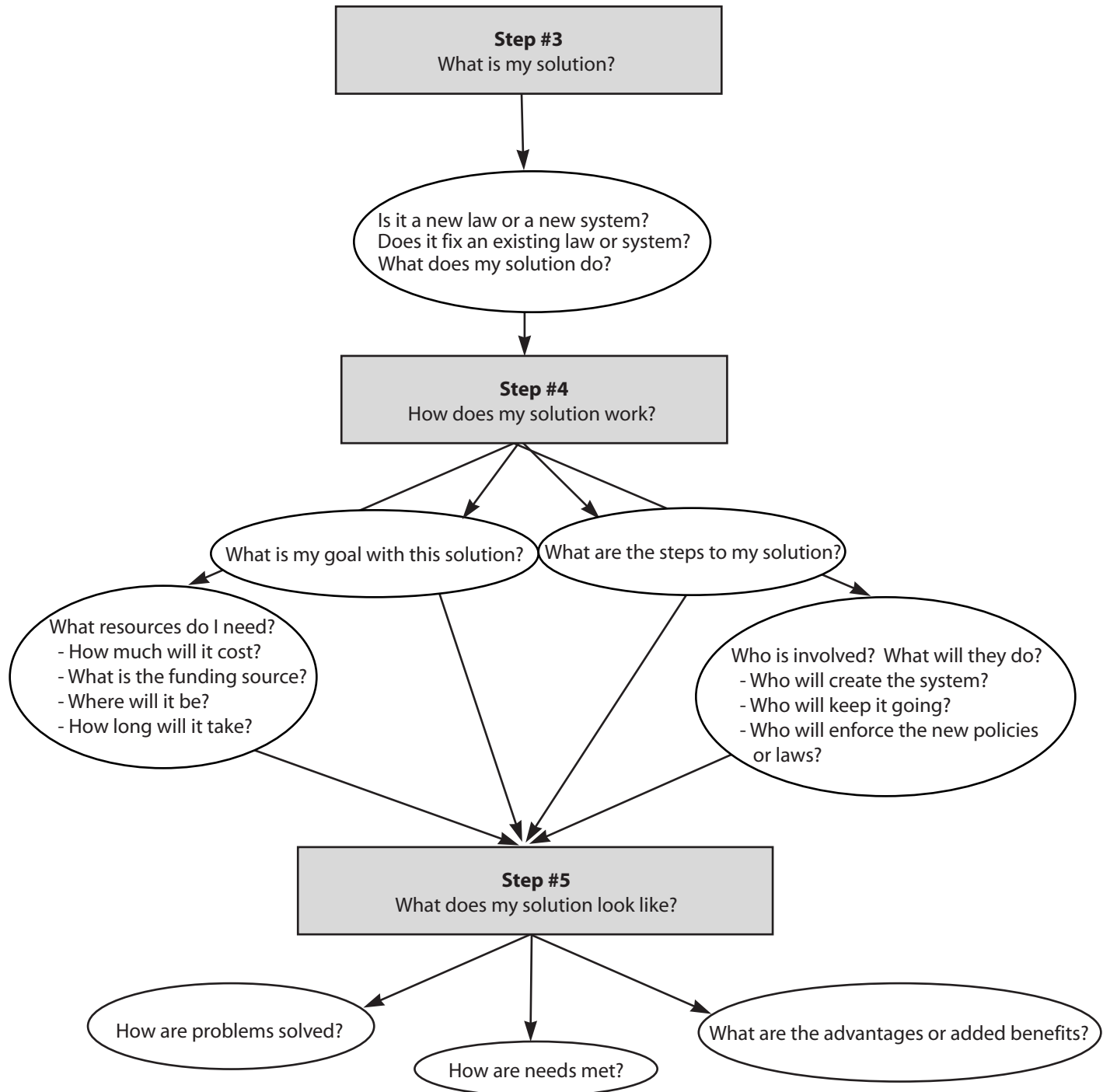
## Stage 1: Finding the Barriers



I'm ready to explore solutions!

# Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case

## Stage 2: Explaining the Solution



I'm ready to present my case!



# Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Case

Graphic Organizer

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the space below to build the necessary parts of your case. Use the spaces to record information, thoughts, and arguments. Keep in mind that the information you record will be "messy" with conflicting ideas and controversies, and you will have several arguments to prove in your case.

**Stage 1: Finding the Barriers**

Problems (what's wrong):	Strengths (what's right):	Needs (what's necessary):

**Stage 2: Explaining the Solution**

My solution and how it works (who, what, when, where...):

How my solution solves the problems:	How my solution meets the needs:

Added benefits or advantages to my solution:

# Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Argument



**DIRECTIONS:** Use the following checklist to test the validity of your logic and reasoning for each argument. If you discover a flaw in your reasoning or your support, be sure to resolve the logical error. Once you have reviewed these questions for each argument, then you are ready to present your case.

## The Argument

What argument do I want to prove?

- ☐ Does anything seem wrong with this logic? Is this argument fair? Reasonable? Balanced? Informed?
- ☐ What assumptions, perspectives, viewpoints, biases may be present?
- ☐ Do these influence the validity or strength of the argument?

## The Support

What facts, statistics, examples, comparisons, or expert viewpoints support my argument?

Can I find numbers or statistics to support my argument?

What statistics support my argument?

- ☐ Are these statistics used in a fair and reasonable manner?
- ☐ Are the statistics used in the manner in which they were intended by the source? Is the source biased?
- ☐ Are my statistics true for the whole picture?
- ☐ Are my statistics presenting an honest view of what is really happening? or does it demonstrate the exception rather than the whole picture?
- ☐ Am I using specific names of experts for my evidence?
- ☐ Am I quoting an expert?
- ☐ Is this expert qualified to address this particular concept?
- ☐ Are there more accounts or interpretations of this concept or event?
- ☐ How do sources differ from each other in their accounts or interpretations of this concept or event?
- ☐ Which source is more accurate? How do I know?
- ☐ What tables, charts, and graphs could I use to help me explain my argument?
- ☐ Do the visual displays of the data fairly represent the facts?
- ☐ What information exists that proves the other viewpoint?
- ☐ Do I fairly and reasonably explain my position in light of contradicting information?

## The Conclusion

What is the conclusion of my argument? What do I want the reader/listener to think, believe, or do?

- ☐ Are there any comparisons or similarities drawn about groups, individuals, or circumstances?
- ☐ What questions can I ask to test the accuracy of these comparisons?
- ☐ Are any generalizations drawn about groups, individuals, or circumstances?
- ☐ What questions can I ask to test the accuracy of these generalizations?
- ☐ Are all statements, arguments, and evidence true?
- ☐ Are the uses of the statements, arguments, and evidence valid?
- ☐ Is this argument effective?
- ☐ Is this argument persuasive?
- ☐ Would this argument influence the reader/listener to think, believe, or do something?



# Presenting a Logical and Reasonable Argument

 Graphic Organizer

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the spaces to record your argument, support or evidence, and conclusion for each argument. Keep in mind that the argument must be stated fairly, that your evidence must support your argument, and that your conclusion should logically follow your reasoning. You will have several arguments to prove in your case.

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## The Argument

What argument do I want to prove?

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## The Support / Evidence

What facts, statistics, examples, comparisons, or expert viewpoints support my argument?

What facts, statistics, examples, comparisons, or expert viewpoints do not support my argument?

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## The Conclusion

What is the conclusion of my argument? What do I want the reader/listener to think, believe, or do?



# Analyzing Logic and Reasoning

## Checklist

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the following checklist to test the validity of your logic and reasoning for each argument. If you answer "no" to any of these questions, be sure to revise your argument and/or support to resolve the logical error. If you have answered "yes" to all of the following questions for each argument, then you are ready to present your case.

### If...then

- ☐ Have I used "if...then" statements when presenting my ideas?
- ☐ Have I been specific with my statements and connected my ideas?

### Fallacies

- ☐ Have I avoided logical fallacies such as unsupported claims, hasty generalizations, limited perspectives, unqualified sources, and inflammatory or biased language?
- ☐ Do the similarities and differences prove a point?

### Support

- ☐ Do I use multiple forms of support to prove each idea?
- ☐ Am I using strong forms of support to prove my points?

### Generalizations

- ☐ Are generalizations truly summarizing the situation?
- ☐ Do I point out when I use generalizations and that they may not apply in all circumstances?
- ☐ Have I explored and tested the generalizations used by my sources to be fair and reasonable?
- ☐ Do I limit my use of generalizations?

### Conclusions

- ☐ Are my conclusions based on sound logic and reasoning rather than my personal values?
- ☐ Are the conclusions of my sources based on sound logic and reasoning rather than their personal values?
- ☐ Are the conclusions of others treated logically and fairly?
- ☐ Are my conclusions based on my previous arguments?
- ☐ Have I constructed my arguments to prove my conclusions?

### Argument

- ☐ Have I eliminated all non-essential, distracting, or unrelated segments of my argument?
- ☐ Have I followed the rules of sound logic and reasoning?
- ☐ Are both the logic and the statements true, fair, and correctly communicated based on the rules of effective persuasion?